

SLURRYFUND

Fact Sheet

TAYLOR LUMBER AND TREATING REMOVAL

Sheridan, Oregon



U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

July 2000

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Taylor Lumber & Treating, Inc. (TLT) anticipate finishing hazardous waste removal activities at the TLT facility this year. The work will begin in late July 2000, and is expected to be finished in October 2000. This fact sheet describes the planned removal work.

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ) and EPA share responsibilities for making sure environmental rules are followed at TLT. ODEQ issues permits for air emissions and water discharges. EPA oversees hazardous waste management and site cleanup work.

What Contaminants Have We Found?

The main contaminants found at TLT are arsenic, creosote, polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), and pentachlorophenol (PCP), chemicals used to treat wood. Dioxin and mercury have also been found at the site. Woodtreating chemicals have contaminated the surface water and reached the groundwater under the site. Chemicals of concern have also been found in water samples taken from the Yamhill River. These chemicals are classified as Non-Aqueous Phase Liquids (NAPLs). Light Non-Aqueous Phase Liquids (LNAPLs), such as diesel fuel, are less dense than water. As they move through the soil, they tend to float on the groundwater. Dense Non-Aqueous Phase Liquids (DNAPLs), such as creosote, are heavier than water and tend to sink in the groundwater. DNAPLs are also absorbed into the soil and sediments, making cleanup very difficult. Both types of NAPLs exist at TLT.

Contaminated Soil Control

In late July, 2000, EPA will begin moving 4,200 tons of contaminated soil. Earlier this year, EPA and TLT removed this soil from ditches around the facility in order to keep it from washing into Rock Creek and the North Fork Yamhill River. This soil showed considerably lower contamination than other soils on site, so it will be placed in a secure holding cell on site to prevent off-site contamination and worker exposure.

Slurry Wall and Asphalt Caps Construction

EPA took several additional samples in spring 2000 and found that the NAPLs are moving toward the river. This summer, to prevent any further movement of these contaminants off site, EPA will build a slurry wall and an asphalt cap around the main treatment plant. The cap will also prevent any additional water from seeping into the ground, where it could be contaminated by woodtreating chemicals in the soils and move toward the river. A second asphalt cap will be built in front of the equipment in the main treatment area, for the same purpose. Both asphalt caps will also limit airborne dust, which contains contaminants such as arsenic.

Community Involvement Plan

Because removal activities at this site are expected to take longer than 120 days, EPA has developed a Community Involvement Plan. The Plan is intended to keep people informed about the site, and is available for your review at the Sheridan Public Library. As community concerns and questions may change over the course of this project, the Plan should be viewed as a "living" document that can be amended to meet community needs. Please direct any questions to Debra Packard, EPA's Community Involvement Coordinator, at (206) 553-0247, or 1-800-424-4372, extension 0247.

Background

The TLT site processes and treats wood. It is located approximately one mile west of Sheridan, Oregon at the intersection of Rock Creek Road and Oregon State Highway 18. The site has a number of buildings including a maintenance shop, a sawmill, a tank farm with 13 above ground storage tanks, and a laboratory. Willamette Pacific Railroad operates a rail line through the site and hauls treated and untreated wood products twice a day.

Chemicals used during the treatment of lumber at TLT have been found in high concentrations in the soil, groundwater, and drainage ditches surrounding the facility. EPA has evaluated the site and determined that a threat to human health and the environment exists from prolonged exposure to contaminated soils and water. Immediate action is being taken to prevent exposure to and further migration of the chemicals found at the site. EPA is using authorities and funding provided by the federal Superfund law to conduct the necessary immediate cleanup activities.

The site is currently being evaluated for proposal to the EPA's National Priorities List (NPL). The NPL is a list of sites targeted for further investigation and possible cleanup under Superfund authority.

If you would like more information

A copy of the Action Memorandum, which describes the cleanup actions required by EPA, is located at the Sheridan Public Library for your review. All future documents related to the removal activities will be placed in the Library, at 142 NW Yamhill Street in Sheridan, Oregon.

If you have any questions, please contact one of the following people:

Mike Sibley, On-Scene Coordinator, at (206) 553-1886

Debra Packard, Community Involvement Coordinator, at (206) 553-0247

Toll free at 1-800-424-4372

Mike Slater, Oregon Operations Office, at (503) 326-5872

EPA has developed a web site about the removal activities at TLT and will place fact sheets and other information about the removal at this web site. The web address for TLT is: <http://yosemite.epa.gov/R10/cleanup.nsf/sites/tlt>

If you would like to receive future fact sheets about EPA's activities at the TLT facility, please contact Debra Packard at (206) 553-0247.

To ensure effective communication with everyone, additional services can be made available to persons with disabilities. Please contact one of the EPA representatives to request additional services.



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